4-30-99

NEWS

English professors speak about Shakespeare at a lecture held on April 21.

PAGE 2

ENTERTAINMENT

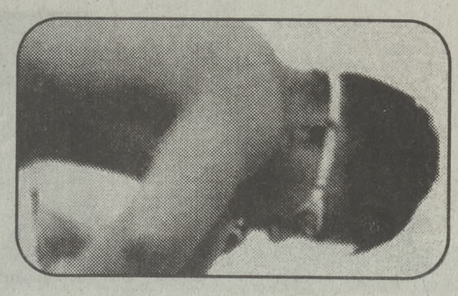
"A Chorus Line," last show of the semester earns good review. The next show will be tonight at 8 p.m..

PAGE 5

SPORTS

Men take third place and women take fourth place at the Western State Conference.

PAGE 6



The Los Angeles Valley Star

www.lavc.cc.ca.us

VOLUME 52 , ISSUE 9 | **SERVING VALLEY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS** | **FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1999**

CAMPUS SCENE

EDITOR IN CHIEF

•Applications for editor-in-chief of the Valley Star are available in Business Journalism 114.
•Applicants must submit the completed form and a letter of interest to Ed Bond, Valley Star adviser, by 5 p.m. on April 30.

CHORAL FESTIVAL

•There will be a high school choral festival in Monarch Hall on May 1 at 7:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY REPS

•Appointments to meet with university representatives can be made at the Career/ Transfer Center in Administration Room 126 or by calling (818) 947-2646.
•Cal State Northridge on May 3 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
•Intercontinental University on May 5 from 10 a.m. to 1p.m. at Monarch Square.

SPECIAL EVENTS DAY

•There will be a day of games and prizes at Woodley Park on May 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
•The event is being sponsored by the Marketing 21 class in partnership with Rydell Automotive Group.

CHEER TEAM

•Cheers, dances, stunts and tumbling will be taught for cheer leading tryouts on May 3, 5 and 10 in the Field House from 6 to 9 p.m.
•Tryouts for the team will be held on May 12 from 6 to 9 p.m.
•For more information call (818) 947-2698.

CINCO DE MAYO

•Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan and the Associated Student Union will host a "Cinco de Mayo" celebration on May 5 in Monarch Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 6 to 10 p.m.
•There will be free admission and entertainment.

NURSES WEEK

•A celebration honoring the nursing profession will be held May 6 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Monarch Hall.
•There will be an international luncheon with refreshments and entertainment.
•The nursing students and faculty of Valley College are hosting the event.

COMMENCEMENT

•Candidates and graduates participating in the graduating ceremony must report to Monarch Hall for a panoramic class picture on May 20 at 3:30 p.m.
•The picture may be ordered at the bookstore for $13.75 plus tax and mailing fees.

Jose Mancilla/ Valley Star

Students participated in an Israeli self-defense demonstration class held as part of the Jewish Awareness Month events.

Hillel events promote awareness

By JAVIER MORELOS
STAR REPORTER

Several events took place during the month of April to commemorate Jewish Awareness Month.

"The purpose of Jewish Awareness Month is to provide the campus community with an opportunity to celebrate Jewish life and culture and to learn about Jewish heritage," according to Nomi Gordon, director of Hillel at Pierce and Valley Colleges.

The celebration of Jewish Awareness Month began at sundown on April 1 with the celebration of Passover.

During the month, events such as an Israeli self-defense demonstration took place at Cafe Hillel, a weekly coffeehouse meeting held on Thursdays. The demonstration, called Krav Maga, was held on April 15. A magic show featuring nationally known magician Howard Jay was held on April 22. Jay has performed regularly at the Magic Castle in Las Vegas.

Other events that were held was a Shabbat service and dinner celebrating Israel's independence day on April 23 and 26. Hillel at Valley College presented a special program in commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, known as Yom Hashoah. This event featured Si Frumkin, a prominent leader in the Jewish community who spent his childhood in several concentration camps. According to the event flyer, Frumkin was liberated from the Dachau concentration camp by the U.S. Army in 1945.

"...to celebrate Jewish life and culture and to learn about Jewish heritage,"
-Nomi Gordon, director of Hillel

Cafe Hillel welcomed L.A. Times sportswriter Steve Springer to talk about his new book "The Los Angeles Times Encyclopedia of the Lakers" on April 29. Springer sold for a reduced price and signed copies of his new book.

Jewish Awareness Month will come to a close with a city wide

SEE JEWISH, page 4

Ethnic slurs cause change

■Sensitivity training: Selected faculty members will undergo cultural sensitivity training after ethnic slurs made public.

By JORGE GUERRERO
STAR REPORTER

In the midst of a controversy surrounding alleged ethnic slurs by a Career/ Transfer Center employee, Valley College administration officials met with students on April 21 to explain how the school handled the incident.

In a letter to college President Tyree Wieder and other administration officials, dated March 4, Norma Vega, a career guidance counseling assistant, had accused student services assistant Len Kraus of openly using the word "wetback" to describe students without social security numbers.

"I was in shock to hear it so blatant," said Vega. The slur was alleged to have happened during a meeting in early March at the Career/ Transfer Center to discuss placement test procedures for high school students.

Kraus has since apologized to college officials.

College administrators were unable to comment on specifics regarding disciplinary measures

SEE KRAUS, page 2

Students seek solutions

By ANITA TORRES
STAR REPORTER

The Human Rights Committee at Valley College held an event on genocide, hosted by committee member Omar Quijada, in Monarch Hall Monday.

The event, titled "Awareness: A Program on Genocide," was sponsored by the Associated Student Union and featured information on the genocide of the Armenians, Jewish, Rwandaans, Tibetans, Native Americans, ethnic Albanians and the people of Chiapas.

The commemoration day for the Armenian genocide is April 24, so the event was held as close to that date as possible, said Marta Reyes, scholastic coordinator for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan.

A video on the Armenian genocide was shown and there were speakers talking about the different genocide.A Jewish Holocaust survivor was brought to the program by Hillel.

Dennis Sanchez/ Valley Star

Omar Quijada spoke about the Zapatista movement.

Peace Action, an organization which supports various causes such as stopping the bombing in Kosovo, was at the event handing out information.

"I expected more people to be here," said Alex Godines, a member of the committee and speaker for the Native American portion of the program. "We're here trying to think of solutions for these problems and I hoped that there were more people out there wanting to share their ideas too."

Valley welcomes seniors

By NANCY ˚BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

High school seniors from 33 participating schools came to Valley College on Tuesday and Wednesday to be informed about various programs on campus as part of an early admission program.

Senior day was to introduce students to Valley College and give them information on how to succeed, Synthia Saltoun, coordinator of the event said.

"It was a chance to talk to faculty about expectations for classes and studying," Saltoun said. "I was very pleased to see students very eager to get a head start with college careers."

There were about 800 students that came to Valley College to participate in Senior day, which began by welcomes from Tyree Wieder, college president; Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services; Armen Orujyan, Associated Student Union president and Saltoun.

Senior day included student interest workshops, educational programs, campus tours and an information fair.

"This benefits students enormously," Bonnie Elbaz-Deckel, college counselor at Ulysses S. Grant High School said. "It introduces them to programs and opportunities at Valley College and it familiarizes students with the campus."

Along with Senior day other programs that high school students are eligible for by participating in the early admissions program, are priority class enrollment, advisement sessions, early assessment, orientation workshops and the opportunity to apply early for financial aid.

"We had good representation from the schools," Saltoun said. The type of workshops at senior day included information on disabled student programs, the transfer program, the athletics program and jobs available for the 21st century.

"I want to know more about the school," Sandra Ramirez said, a senior at San Fernando High

SEE SENIOR, page 2

Dennis Sanchez/ Valley Star

High school seniors were welcomed to Valley College on Tuesday and wednesday as part of an early admissions program.

Championship coach dies at 76

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

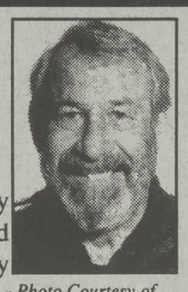


Photo Courtesy of Valley College
Former coach George Kerr.

Three time cross country championship coach George Kerr died April 13 in his Chatsworth home. He was 76.

Kerr died from a heart attack around 1 p.m. according to Mike Wagenbach, Kerr's former cross country runner and assistant coach.

Kerr, a College of the Pacific graduate, guided the Monarchs in cross country state championships between 1968 and 1970.

Kerr did not get a funeral per his wishes, instead his body was cremated. His ashes were spread in the ocean by his friends at the Neptune Society, an organization which deal with the cremating rituals.

Along with coaching runners, Kerr also coached the Monarch football and track teams during his 31-year stay at Valley College.

"He was a very successful coach here," Athletic Director Chuck Ferrero said. "He was a strong cross country and track coach."

He spread his knowledge and teachings through 1958 and 1989 at the college, also contributed to higher level athletics.

His son Walt became a successful men's and women's volleyball coach at Cal State Northridge. Former UCLA football coach Terry Donahue and Green Bay Packer star Terrell Ray were on Kerr's football teams.

"He made men out of boys," said Wagenbach, who was the team captain on Kerr's first two state championships as a runner. "He made high school kids stand up for themselves. He didn't try to be a nice guy."

Kerr twice held a track world record in the shot put competitions in 1950 and 1955. He was ranked third as an American athlete in 1951. He made the Pan-American team shortly after World War II, where he contributed to the United States as a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy.

Kerr reunited with his cross country alumni every five years at Wagenbach residence. The last time they reunited was on Wagenbach's 30th year reunion last fall where Kerr said "I promise you guys, I'll be back for another one," as everybody was saying bye to each other at the end of the reunion.

"I called everybody to tell them the news," said Wagenbach, who coached track with Kerr from 1977 to 1979. "They all said the same thing, 'we were so lucky to be part of his teams when he was so successful'."

Shakespearean celebration hosted at Valley College

By NANCY °BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

Lectures were given to celebrate William Shakespeare's birthday and to show he is still significant today as he was in the 16th century.

Shakespeare is still significant because he can speak about conditions of people at all times, Robert Metzger, English professor said.

Metzger, along with English professors Ross McLean, Jean Stearns and John Zounes were the speakers at the distinguished faculty lecture held on April 21 at 7 p.m. in Monarch Hall.

One of the highlights of the lectures was when Farrel Broslawsky, coordinator of the event, read one of Zounes poems, Armen Orujyan, Associated Student Union said.

"It was astonishing," Orujyan, who gave the closing remarks at the lecture said. "It was a nice poem."

There were at least 200 audience members at the lecture. "The whole program was really good," Metzger said.

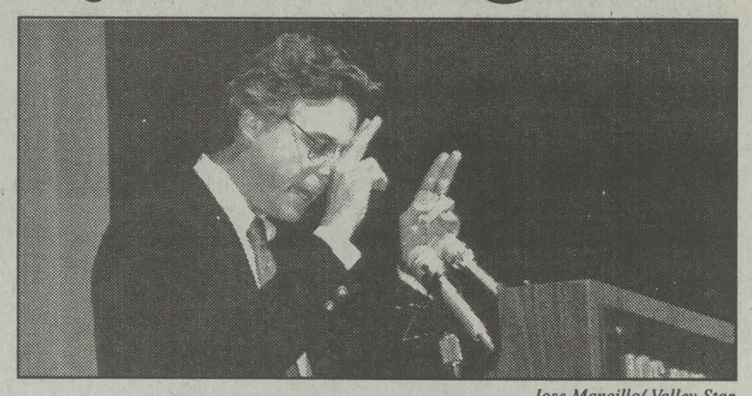
Metzger's lecture focused on the play "MacBeth," and Zounes focused on "Antony and Cleopatra."

McLean spoke about a variety of subjects, including ways to read Shakespeare and about experiences people have going to plays.

Scenes of "Twelfth Night," and "MacBeth" were shown at the lecture.

Stearns discussed ways that Shakespeare has of getting readers and viewers involved. "Shakespeare gives equal justice to all his characters," Metzger said.

At the lecture the welcome was given by Tyree Wieder, college president and introductions were by Leon Marzillier, academic senate president.



Jose Mancilla/ Valley Star
English professor Robert Metzger spoke about "Macbeth" at a distinguished faculty lecture held in Monarch Hall on April 21.

The College Patrons sponsor the lectures that are held each semester at Valley College.

The instructors are chosen because of their teaching ability and their enthusiasm for the subject being discussed, according to the program invitations.

Student union winners elected

By DENNIS SANCHEZ
STAR REPORTER

Valley College has new officers in the Associated student Union for the 1999-2000 school year. The elections for these officers took place on April 13 and 14 and the winners were announced on April 15.

With just more than 700 students participating in the ASU elections the ASU president elected was Leslie Channon. She won the elections with approximately 40 percent of the votes, a margin of 60 votes.

Justine Lozano won for vice president, by a nine vote margin. The other victories went to Deborah Greenspan who was elected treasurer; Diana Sarkisova, elected commissioner of political affairs. Armen Buniatyan was elected commissioner of environmental and campus concerns; Vahe Nakashyan, commissioner of evening division; Alex Shapiro, commissioner of public relations and Svetlana Kats , commissioner of student and social services all won by a significant margin of approval and ran without any opponents.°

Some offices still remain open, such as commissioner of fine arts and commissioner of ethnic and cultural affairs. Students interested in being a commissioner can pick up an application in the Student Services office in Campus Center 100.

The procedure to fill the empty offices are like applying to a job, according to the Associate Dean of Student Services Tino Manzano.

The Executive Council will interview all applicants and then decide who gets the office.

Manzano encourages students to gain an office. "It's a great way for a student to start developing and discovering their leadership skills," Manzano said. "They will be counted upon to coordinate and produce activities with a budget."

KRAUS, from page 1

but did confirm that action had been taken.

"We took swift action," said Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services. "We do not condone or tolerate any kind of racial bigotry."

Questions were raised about the districtís non-discrimination policy by the Movimiento Chicano de Aztlan, Club Latino United for Education and other organizations. During last week's meeting, hosted by M.E.Ch.A. in Foreign Language 111, other students came forward to share similar accounts of racial insensitivity by faculty members.

"This is not just about M.E.Ch.A.," said Marta Reyes, scholastic coordinator for M.E.Ch.A. "It's about the entire student body."

According to Vega's letter, after the alleged slur Career/ Transfer Center coordinator Synthia Saltoun asked Kraus if he had just used a derogatory word. According to the letter, Kraus answered "Absolutely!" and later added "about the word 'wetback' so you can quote me...they are the ones who are sometimes afraid...so let them know they can come here."

Kraus refused to comment on the incident when contacted by the Valley Star. But in a letter addressed to Delahoussaye dated April 13, he apologized for "any discomfort that I may of caused to the staff, students, and administration of Valley College."

Throughout last week's meeting Wieder claimed this was the first time she had heard of a complaint involving Kraus. She described the difference between discrimination and inappropriate employee behavior. She explained that no discrimination had taken place. Delahoussaye and Wieder stressed the importance of formally documenting incidents of racial insensitivity and encouraged students not to remain silent.

They both praised Vega for speaking out and taking proper procedures in dealing with this matter.

Ways of informing students about grievance policies were also discussed. Because of this incident, selected faculty members will participate in a retreat to undergo "cultural sensitivity training" this summer, said Delahoussaye. A student advocacy program was also initiated to familiarize students with their rights and responsibilities.

Agency response proves success

By ALEXIS SCALICE
STAR REPORTER

More than 38 agencies participated in the fourth annual Agency Focus Group meeting April 21 on behalf of the Service Learning Program ran through the Valley College Counseling Department.

This annual event was commenced by the first Volunteer Fair where a number of agency representatives brought flyers and other informative material for students interested in volunteering for the community.

"It was important as far as faculty and agencies interacting and sharing ideas to further advance the program."
-Rick Brossman, Service Learning director

The large response from the community agencies proved success said Service Learning Director Rick Brossman. "This was an extremely successful follow up from last year," said Brossman. "It was important as far as faculty and agencies interacting and sharing ideas to further advance the program."

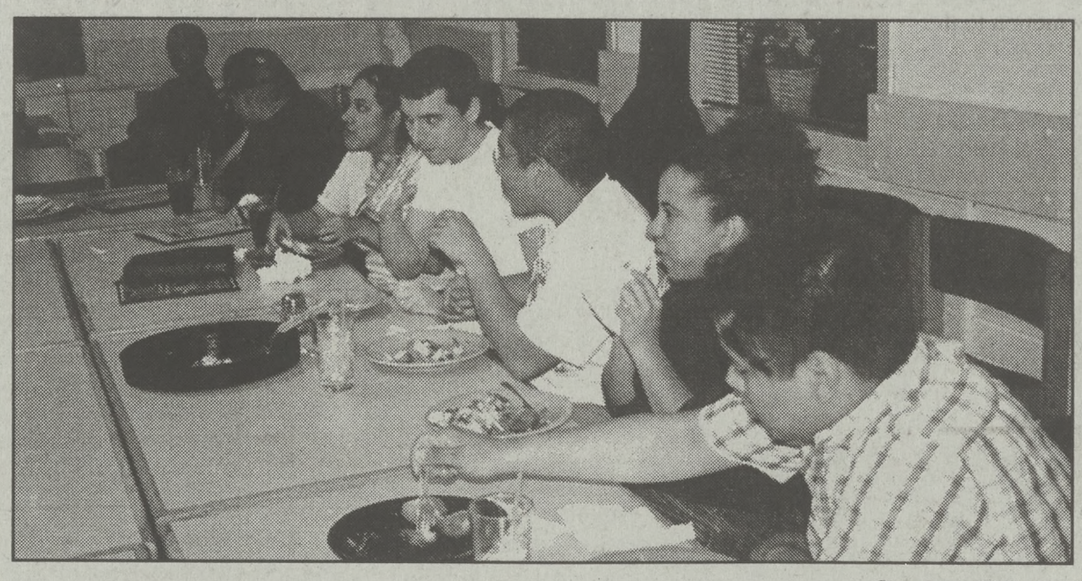
The Focus Group meeting included Valley College President Tyree Wieder and Academic Senate Director Leon Marzillier. Expansion of the Service Learning with the $125,000 grant recently applied for , was an issue raised at the meeting. "The whole idea is to address the needs of the students as far as academic and career motivation and retention rate of grade point average," Brossman said.

Also at the meeting were office representatives from California State Assembly member Robert Hertzberg and the United States House of Representatives Henry Waxman.

Service Learning Program Secretary Marylin Habert said a lot of agencies that could not make it this year and are planning to show up at the next meeting. "We are constantly having more agencies signing up," Habert said. "Our list becomes larger all the time."

New to her position, Habert said she greatly enjoys her position. "I feel like I am really doing something important.through this program, students learn how they can help with the problems in the community and these agencies desperately need a lot of volunteers."

United at Numero Uno...



Steve James/ Valley Star
Club Latino United for Education hosted a pizza night at Numero on April 18 beginning at 6 p.m. Members of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan along with other Valley College students attended the event. Pizza night was held to raise money for C.L.U.E.'s Latino Youth Conference. C.L.U.E. meets Tuesdays in Foreign Language 108.

SENIOR, from page 1

School. "It will benefit other students because they get to learn more before getting enrolled."

During the information fair there was a club day atmosphere with participation from campus clubs, such as the Armenian Student Association, Club Latino United for Education, Movimineto Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan and Tau Alpha Epsilon, the honor society. Also a during the fair there were representatives from the Career/ Transfer Center, Student Services and other programs and resources available at Valley College.

The Valley College cheer leaders and dance troupe as well as the music and theater arts department participated in senior day by providing entertainment with a variety of performances.

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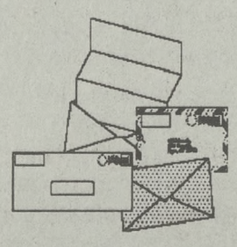
Valley Star news



The last issue of the valley star for the spring semester is scheduled to be published may 6.
items for campus scene should be turned in
by 1 p.m. on may 3 to business journalism 114.

Editorial...

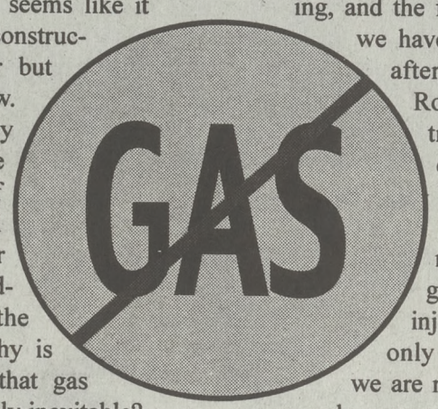
Gas out not just hot air

The average gas consumer today sweats as he squeezes the rubber handle tighter, agonizing over the rising numbers. Short of breath, most people end up stopping at only half a tank of regular unleaded gas.

In a society that caters to the art of convenience, the rise in gas prices has been a painful experience. Lunch time jabber, locker room talk and dinner discussions have centered around a variety of fuel expense concerns.

The habitual pastime of complaining is the normal exercise, at least in this county, of dealing with whatever problems arise.

Taking matters one step further, like participating in the gas out today seems like it might be a constructive answer but only to a few.



Reality says that the majority of people will fill up their tanks regardless of the protest. Why is this? Is it that gas hikes are truly inevitable?

Maybe, but the attitudes within our communities do not have to be. In a self-centered society, we are not accustomed to unifying, and the few times that we have, such as the aftermath of the Rodney King trial, the outcome was a disaster. Looted businesses, broken glass, and injured civilians only proved that we are not a group of people successful at making the world a better place.

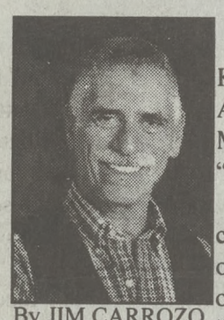
this trend could be changed however. Giving the gas stations a day off may not compel Chevron or the local 76 station to tear down prices, but it will prove that this population is capable of coming together in a rational manner on issues that concern the public.

There is more to be said for this type of transformation than a lousy rise in gas prices. Furthermore, the power behind a large unified force should not be second guessed.

If we give a little, our earnings may prosper, and a half tank of gas may not take as much strength to pump.

The Senior Freshman...

Balkanization: Hostile divisions between the Crescent and Cross

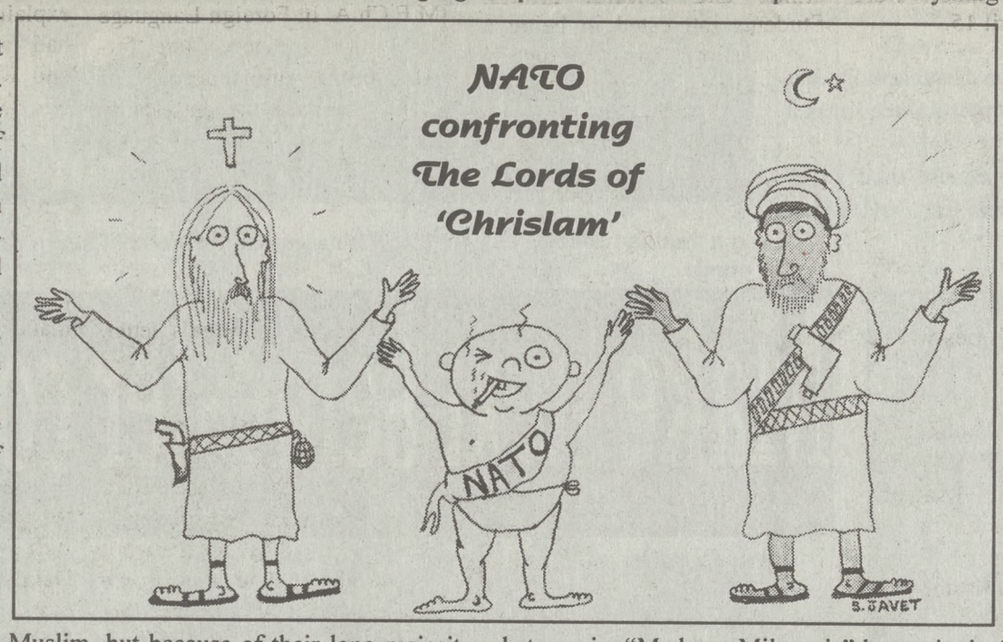


By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

I received two E-mails regarding my column on Kosovo. A Christian condemning ethnic Albanian Muslims as a "Godless majority," and a Muslim maintaining that Serb Christians are "under the control of Satan."

Now that 33,000 military reservists have been called to active duty, students at Valley who are of fighting age would do well to visit the library or the History Department and get some sort of "nutshell" understanding of the religious mind sets of the Muslim, Eastern Orthodox Christian and Croatian Roman Catholic in the Balkans, just in case you find yourself visiting there for some reason or another in the near future.

On the surface the war is a political and not a religious struggle. The two main adversaries are so vastly different in culture, language and history, that religion is arguably not their main contention. It is however the ancient root cause of today's conflicts and has provided them with the zeal needed to sustain their mutual hatred over many centuries.



The Serb minority, under the Eastern Orthodox Church considers Kosovo to be holy ground and part of their spiritual foundation. Many sacred shrines are there and they want the turf back.

The so called Kosovar Albanians are Muslim, but because of their long majority presence in the area, they claim it as theirs. Both are intractable and Nato's presence there is like a small child trying to control two ill tempered dragons.

The media of course shamelessly present carefully propagandized images of refugees moving in slow motion to the accompaniment of mournful music clearly designed to bring a tear to the eye. This time around the Serbs are bad and the Kosovars are good, but that's really just code for Christians and Muslims.

The Christians see Muslims as deserters of Christ, because of their conversions from Christianity to Islam during the 500 year Turkish rule of the Ottoman Empire. The Muslims have themselves been guilty of great religious prejudice in the past and recently, through the Kosovo Liberation Army, (KLA), have made unbridled physical attacks against the Christians.

You need to know that over time both sides have been guilty of the most unconscionable behavior, ready to kill each other in a New York minute; and all in the name of God. Organized religions in these parts of the world are an insidiously divisive force. The Eastern Orthodoxy and the Roman Catholics of Croatia on their own have tallied up a body count of well over ten thousand in the last five years not to mention the hundreds of thousands in Bosnian body bags after their 3 1/2 years of fighting.

Eventually theological disagreements become politicized and more national than religious, but it all starts with the "God game," much like the Catholics and Protestants of Ireland, the Hindus and Sikhs of India and the Catholics and Buddhists of Vietnam.

The point is we're in the middle of a socio-religious battle of such long standing that there are no "good guys." They're all afflicted with the sickest of society's evils, spiritual pride. Agreeing on nothing but their mutual hatred, and their belief that God is in their corner, makes them all seem like mindless morons to the rational eye, in spite of the media's attempt to make everything look black and white.

The divisions are so ingrained in the consciousness of the people that even our own English language dictionary has in it words like "Balkanized" and Balkanization," meaning to break up into small, mutually hostile units. How do you succeed at peacekeeping in such a situation?

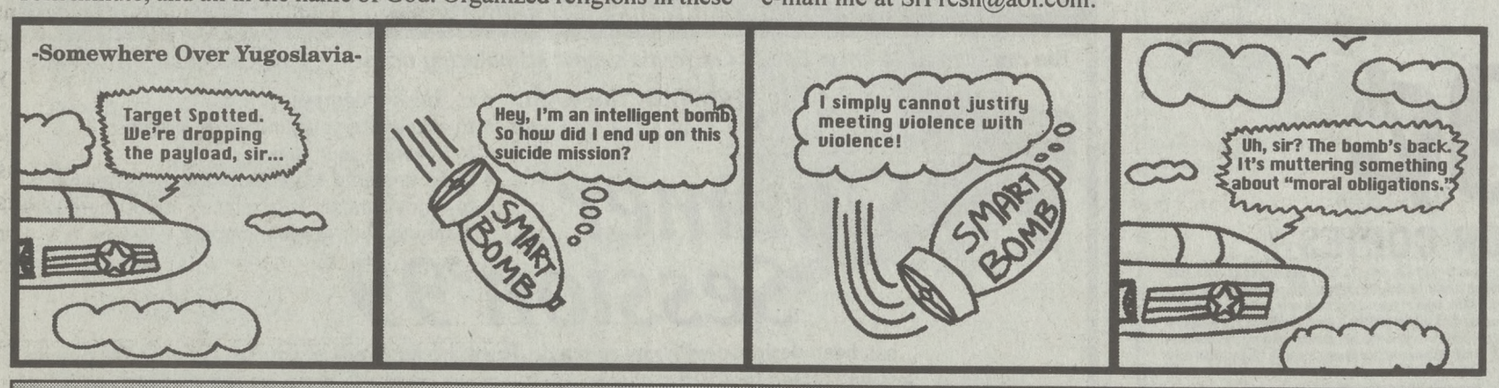
Communism kept them from each other's throats temporarily but now that they're free to hate again, "Madman Milosevic" has re-ignited the flame, resulting in this "new" conflict. We may well find ourselves sacrificing our young on their ancient altars of hatred.

Frankly both sides disgust me. Here we are entering the twenty first century, and they're still in the fifteen hundreds. No wonder we have trouble getting along in America. We're descended from all these backward people and places where everybody hates everybody else, except we don't have borders to keep us safely apart.

The bottom line is that students should get to know where these fanatics are coming from because they may one day find themselves mediating for their lives. Good luck in convincing them to be tolerant of each other's religious beliefs, much less tolerant of you.

Jesus and Muhammad must be weeping in each other's arms up there in "Chrislam" heaven, so ruthless are these modern day proponents of the beautiful spiritual philosophies they offered humanity so long ago.

Let me know what you think about this no-win situation. you can e-mail me at SrFresh@aol.com.


-Somewhere Over Yugoslavia-
Target Spotted. We're dropping the payload, sir...
Hey, I'm an intelligent bomb. So how did I end up on this suicide mission?
SMART BOMB
I simply cannot justify meeting violence with violence!
SMART BOMB
Uh, sir? The bomb's back. It's muttering something about "moral obligations."

For Your Information:

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. The College newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.

Photo Survey

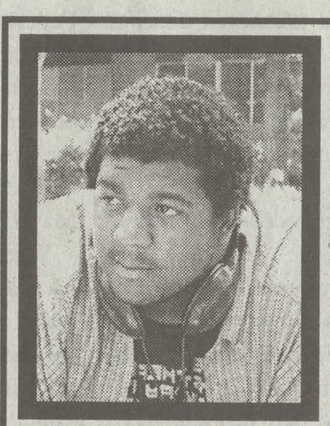
Do you believe in mercy killing?

"A person should have the right to die if they choose because they have a threatening disease. It's the same as a coma victim's family member's right to decide to pull the plug or not."

-Janee Lowe

"Yes. If suffering from a terminal illness, people should have assistance in ending their pain and suffering."

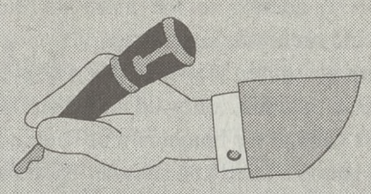
-Joyce Asner



"I believe that one should cease medication or pull the plug, ie:life support. I don't believe a man should take another's life. Death should not be induced."

-Barron Gardner II

Write us a letter!



The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. We reserve the right to condense letters for space considerations. Letters are limited to 250 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed and include the student's ID number. Letters may be left at the Valley Star in BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday. They can also be placed in any of our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or e-mail to VSTAR@laccd.cc.ca.us.

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The music is his message..

Now in his 35th year of teaching, Woody James plays better than ever

By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

With the first name of one famous musician and the last name of another, Woody James sounds like a jazzman's moniker, and the man behind the name gets the kind of respect from his rhythm sections and sidemen, as would be accorded either a Woody Herman or a Harry James.

He is Dr. Woody James, the leader of the Valley College Jazz Ensemble, a 24 piece big band.

With the sound and style of the great dance bands of the 40s the ensemble consists of 17 or more trumpets, trombones and saxophones supported by a full rhythm section.

"It's meant to be an old time jazz band ," James said during a recent interview, "but with maybe a little more of a contemporary flair."

The real magic of the band is that it closes the generation gap.

The horn section are mostly older students, with the combined musical experience of perhaps 1000 years.

The rhythm section are primarily younger students given the rare opportunity of playing jazz standards with musicians who knew the tunes when they were new releases.

All must pass an audition before receiving access to the course, Music 775.

James has been a professor of music in the Los Angeles Community Colleges since 1973, and is currently the Director of Jazz Studies at Valley. He has been teaching music since receiving a Ph.D. in Music Theory from Michigan State University in 1966.

His teaching gigs range from CSUN to CPOM and from University of Oklahoma to Michigan State, with Florence and McNeese State Colleges in between.

He has also taught arranging, jazz improvisation and jazz appreciation in additon to the more traditional classical theory and orchestration courses.

His musical heritage started to kick in when he picked up trumpet in the sixth grade, followed his father's lead by working in his band in his hometown of Biloxi, MI.

His interest in bebop started at a summer band camp in Raymond, MI when he broke through into his own style inspired by the work of Miles Davis, Conte Candoli and Chet Baker among others.

James is one of those affable type people whose understatement tries, but fails to hide the brightness of his talent.

Once he gives the downbeat to his students he can no longer hide behind his Clark Kent exterior, because he brings them all together and he teaches them to fly, hopefully as one.

Himself, a jazz trumpeter, composer and recording artist, his album "Jazz Crystallizations" was released in 1979.

That was followed in 1982 by "Hardcore Jazz," featuring jazz legends such as Phil Woods, Shelly Manne and Carl Fontana. Both albums contain several of James' compositions.

"I always had a compulsion to be a musician. I never wanted to be anything else."
—Dr. Woody James

James received the "Jazz Educator of the Year" award from the Los Angeles Jazz Society in 1993, which he added to his other awards of recognition for his excellence as a teacher from the National Federation of Music Clubs and the National Association of Jazz Educators.

Each semester James schedules two or three big band concerts open to Valley students. Last Wednesday was the first, held at Monarch Hall.

The next concerts are scheduled on April 8th and May 10th.

When he was recently asked how he liked to spend his spare time, his response was what one would expect from a musician passionatlely committed his art, "Making music," he said without hesitation.

"I always had a compulsion to be a musician," James said. "I never wanted to be anything else."

That's easy to believe after you've heard him play with his Thursday night band at Casey's Tavern near the intersection of Sherman Way and Topanga Canyon Boulevard in Canoga Park.

Music 775 carries only 0.5 transferrable units but what a way to earn half a unit. It meets three times a week in the Music building.

You know they're in session because their sweet sounds fill the hallways with great jazz and swing music.

Courtesy of Los Angeles Time
In a familiar pose to all who know him, James spends his spare time making more music.

JEWISH, from page 1

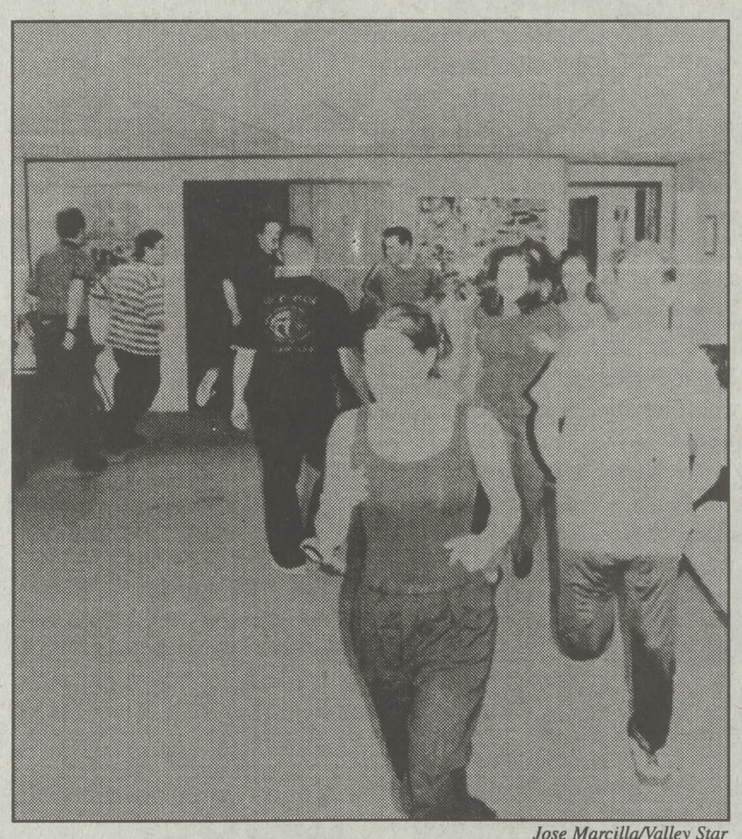
Event heightens Jewish awareness

Shabbat to be held on Friday beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Regional Hillel Shabbat will be held at the University of California Los Angeles Hillel in Westwood.

The Shabbat will feature nationally known Jewish historian Professor Howard Sachar of George Washington University who has twice received the National Jewish Book Award.

Hillel has been celebrating with the Valley College Jewish Community for almost 35 years. For more information call Hillel at (818) 887-5901.



Jose Marcilla/Valley Star
Students participate in the Israeli self-defense demonstration class.

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For additional information or a free Summer Session catalog, please call the CSUN Extension office,
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CAMPUS CALENDAR

(April 30 - May 6)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES

-Friday, Apr. 30-

- High School Coral Festival
- At Monarch Hall
- 7:30 p.m.

-Sunday, May 2-

- LAVC Guitar Ensemble and Orchestra
- Robert Mayeur, director
- In the Music Recital Hall
- 7:30 p.m.
- Admission:

$6 general
$5 students and seniors

-Thursday, May 6-

- LAVC College Choir and Chamber Singers
- Dianne Wintrob and Nick Strimple, directors
- In the Music Recital Hall
- 11 a.m.

THEATER ARTS PLAY PRODUCTIONS
- April 30; May 6,7,8 -

- A Chorus Line
- Directed by Pete Parkin
- At the Little Theater
- Admission:
  $5 Students and Seniors
  $10 General
- Call (818) 947-2790

STUDENT ART SHOW

-Through May 12-

- "Student Work"
- Monday through Thursday
- 11a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- In the Art Gallery

The Valley College cast recreates the original cast photo of "A Chorus Line."

Photo Courtesy of The Valley College Theater Arts Department

'A Chorus Line' caps off the season in style

By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

All the work that went into the Dance, Music and Theater Department's production of "A Chorus Line" has paid off. It opened Thursday at the Little Theater and plays tonight, Saturday and next week on May 6, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m.

The musical looks easy to mount - only a bare stage and one costume for the finale - but it is complicated theatre, depending on a finely tuned ensemble, split second timing, raw talent and a dedicated technical staff. That was all in evidence at last Monday's sneak preview

The show is a risky choice for a college because in spite of its low overhead, it calls for the kind of dancing that takes years of training to perfect, and isn't readily found on campuses. Add to that the remaining elements found in a "triple threat gypsy," vocal power and good acting, and you have an enormously high standard difficult to reach even on Broadway.

That notwithstanding It's Marvin Hamlisch's songs, Edward Kleban's lyrics and James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante's book that are the shows real power. They so compellingly reveal the outer bravado and inner frailty of the aspiring artist, that the audience sees itself in the characters on stage. It doesn't matter if you're a bus driver or an aerospace engineer, the desire, the need and the self-doubt felt when job hunting are the same for everyone.

Using the script which was an outgrowth of the original cast's personal expositions director Peter Parkin has elicited some well crafted performances from his troupe.

Outstanding was Aimee Urmanita as Diana. Her renditions of "Nothing" and "What I Did For Love," were excellent. Phil Zipkin captured all the fun of a happy kid first discovering his talent, in the song "I Can Do That," and Wilma T. Monroe, Kathleen Mangan and Lisa Lynch sang sweetly of the dance in the moving "At the Ballet."

The romantic subplot involving the director Zack, played so believably by Darrel Bryan, and the "older" dancer, Cassie played by Jessica Nesmith, is a poignant reminder of the pressure art places on personal relationships. Nesmith, a very appealing presence on stage, performs a downsized version of " The Music and the Mirror" that, choreographed by Carla Lubow and Geordie Wright, communicates the need of the dancer to dance at all costs.

Among the lighter moments are Ronit Yokovee and Phil Zipkin's teaming in the goofy, well timed duet, "Sing," Brent Rosen's very funny retelling of the time he thought he had contracted a venereal disease, Bernard Davis' "take no prisoners" interpretation of "Gimme 'da ball," and Leslie Charron's savvy antics in the funny "Dance 10 - Looks 3." As the formerly flat chested failure who succeeds after buying "tits and ass," Charron plays it for all its worth. Also scoring were Noe Villagrana's "stripper" story, and Eric Grindler's tale of the everhard teenager.

Paradoxically the most touching segment of the show is neither musical nor choreographic. It's the riveting 10 minute monologue originally improvised by the late Sammy Williams as Paul, detailing the pain of a young homosexual discovered by his anguished mother to be a drag queen in the famous Jewel Box Revue. In a compelling interpretation, the versatile singer, dancer, actor and director, Francisco Hernandez is heartbreakingly real. His performance has all the earmarks of a major talent.

There are many other delights in the show. Very strong were Heidi Carafano, Mary Aramian, Marco Pizzo and especially Ed Santos as the A.D. He dances with style.

Rounding out the cast were Calista Carradine, Michelle Perks, Shannon Quaschnick, Sunshine Bainbridge and Sarah Godel. Space doesn't permit listing Aaron Bronsal's technical staff by name but their good work is evident in the lighting and sound design of the production.

Bravo to all for a moving evening of musical theater. What a great way to end a semester.

Jose Mancilla /Valley Star

The Valley Symphony Orchestra played at the Congressional Church of the Chimes Sunday accompanied by the LAVC Philharmonic Choir in a 50th anniversary performance entitled "Music of Brahms."

'As You Were' tells it like it really was

By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

Two plays dealing with the war in Vietnam and written by two different playwrights, were presented at the Shoebox Theater on April 7th and 8th, as part of the Valley College Lab Theater program.

The plays, "The Field," by Robert Spera and "Spades," by Jim Beaver, shared the bill under the appropriate title, "As You Were," giving a twisted vision of Vietnam "as it was." It was the best realized lab production of school year.

Directed by Francisco Hernandez, the short plays vividly captured the surrealistic confusion in which many infantrymen found themselves during that misguided conflict.

Hernandez' excellent direction kept his actors perched between sanity and madness, enabling them to grab the audience right at the start, riveting their attention on the impossible nature of the soldiers' hopeless situations, and leaving them hanging in the unresolved nightmare of an un-winnable war.

The first play, "The Field," places infantrymen Jake and Mickey in the middle of a mine field.

To retreat is as dangerous as to proceed and, frozen in fear, they distract each other with songs and jokes, in an attempt to focus their concentration so they can move one step at a time to an uncertain future.

It is the ultimate catch-22, and Aaron Bronsal and Kevin Peckham make you feel as if you're stuck in the mine field with them.

"Spades" finds Corporals Jack Chitwood and Rob Flanagan on detail, bagging bodies in an Army morgue.

They are so desensitized to the process that what, to a normal person would be considered the worst of all assignments, has become to them an exercise in macabre humor.

In the middle of their watch, a thought-to-be dead soldier regains consciousness.

His frenzy upon realizing his predicament, which would have destroyed the sanity of these soldiers in a normal world, leads them instead to a state of utter hilarity over the mistake.

Charles Bell plays Flanagan and Kevin Peckham returns as Chitwood, both vividly capturing the boredom that turns a normally horrifying reality into a "par for the course" day at the office. Their denial and nervous hysteria portends a tragic future in a society that will ultimately reject them and deny them honor at the war's end.

In a tour de force unbilled cameo, Arturo Rubio, Jr. as the living corpse proves once again that he is an actor of great potential..

The voice-over radio broadcasts were done by Rev. Willi-Mo, Aubrey West, Jesse Leon, Alex Saavedra, Dan Greenberg and Christine Iblings.

Stage manager Sharlene Brown's lighting and sound team and L.2. Ontiveros' make up united with the talented players to create a very intense theatrical experience of which all concerned can be proud.

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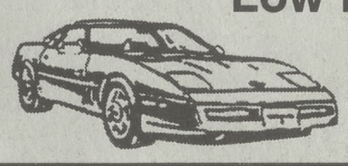

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Track and Field now under new leadership

By BAXTER CEPEDA
STAR REPORTER

Francois Wolman was hired on April 14 by Los Angeles Valley College to head all the running programs at the school.

Monarch Athletics announced that Wolman would be in charge of both the men's and Women's programs in track and field and cross- country.

"I feel like a kid in a candy store," Wolman said.

"The San Fernando Valley is a gold mine for recruiting and competing."

Wolman, entering his 30th year of coaching has also worked at College of the Canyons and Santa Monica College which are both conference rivals.

"There are a lot of good schools and talented athletes in this area," Wolman said.

"I feel like a kid in a candy store,"

-Francois Wolman

"Add to that local training facilities such as Griffith Park, Dixie Canyon and Liberty Canyon and we have the ideal setting for a premier program."

Wolman captured the 1973- 74 Los Angeles City Championships in the 800 meters while attending Fairfax High School.

He went to the University of Oregon on a track scholarship before finishing his collegiate career at Cal State University, Northridge.

Women's Softball loses to Bakersfield

BY DENNIS E. HAYSE
STAR REPORTER

On Tuesday the Lady Monarchs lost to Bakersfield 7-0. The game started at 3 p.m. in Bakersfield.

The Lady Monarchs had lost some of their players due to academic ineligibility and personal problems.

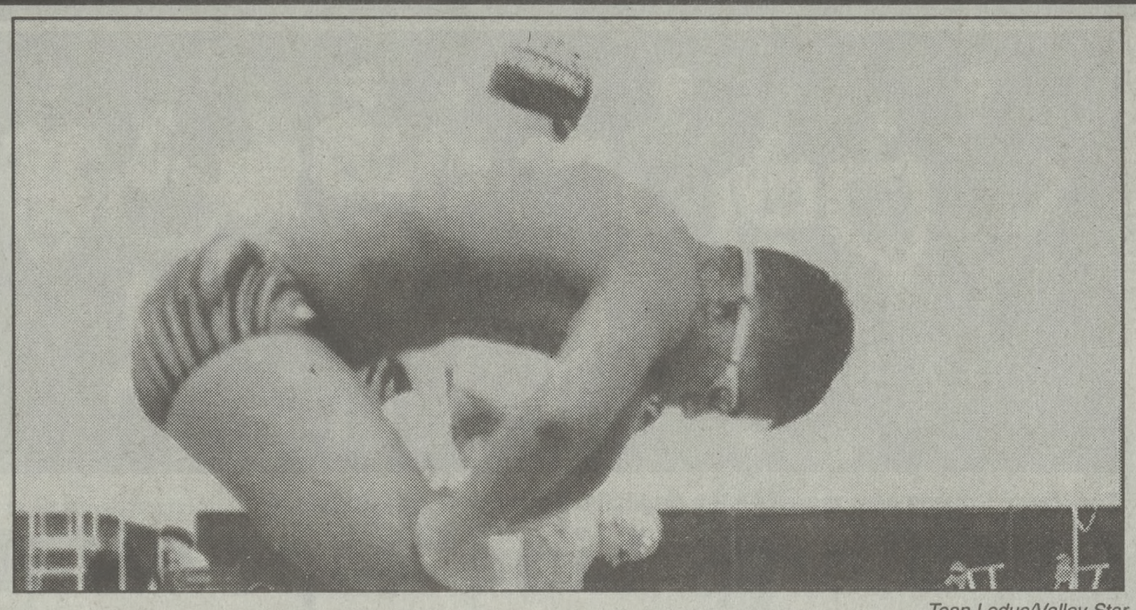
The team had to rely on the athleticism of some of the Women's Basketball team. Marisela Rodriguez and Carrie Miller are the two newcomers to the team.

The Lady Monarchs held the score at 0-0 until the 5th inning.

"I'm still optimistic," said the softball assistant coach Mario Rico. "We still have a tough battle ahead, but I believe we could still come out strong."

With a record of 4-8 the Monarchs are in third in conference.

The Lady Monarchs have two home games coming up against Glendale and Santa Monica on the 29th at 3 p.m. and after that on the first of May at 12 noon at Valley.



Toan Leduc/Valley Star

The Valley Men's swim team placed third at the Western States Conference.

Monarch swimming approaches the top

By HOLLY CARSON
STAR REPORTER

Individual best times plus team ratings was the challenge at the Western States Conference swim championships. This year's conference, with a total of nine teams competing, was held at Citrus College in Azuza on April 23-25.

Valley's men's team swam to a 3rd overall seat out of the nine teams competing, which included the following in order of finish: Cuesta, Ventura, Valley, Chaffey, Santa Monica, College of the Canyons, Citrus, Rio Hondo and Pierce.

"Our top three seat in the conference shows our strength," Bill Krauss, Valley's swim coach said. "Cuesta and Ventura are the only two teams that have beat us this year."

Daniel Sandoval had a great meet placing 2nd in the 1650 yard freestyle in 17.44.1 and 4th in the 400 individual medley in 4:36.5. These fast times qualify him for the state championships in both of these events.

Baxter Cepeda came in 4th in the 100 yard butterfly in 56.1 and 5th in the 200 yard butterfly in 2:10.9. Josh Wilson placed 6th in the 200 yard individual medley with a 2:10.5 and was 6th in the 200 yard breaststroke in 2:20.4. Hector Zambrano placed 5th overall in the 100 yard butterfly with a 56.34.

The Lady Monarchs placed well with a 4th out of 9 teams. The order of finish was Ventura, Cuesta, Santa Monica, Valley, College of the Canyons, Chaffey, Citrus, Rio Hondo, and Pierce. "The women's team has made a lot of progress," said Krauss. "What is needed is more practice, practice, practice!"

Stephanie Hammer won the 100 yard freestyle in 56.23, placed 3rd in the 50 yard freestyle with a 26.2 and a 3rd in the 100 yard freestyle in 2:05.1. "These fast times qualify her for the state championships," said Coach Krauss.

Ramona Friedman was 8th in the 50 yard breaststroke in 36.7 and 8th in the 100 yard breaststroke with a 1:18.10. Lianna Kisimoto was 5th in the 200 individual medley with a 2:32.2.

BAXMAN'S COLUMN

Denver shows class through sports stars

By BAXTER CEPEDA
STAR REPORTER

Tragedies occur all the time in this world we live in and it isn't often that people help in remembering the victims as well as the Denver professional athletes have over these past two weeks for Colombine High.

John Elway, arguably the greatest quarterback of all time decided to hold off retiring because he didn't want to interfere with the mourning of the city and the rest of the country.

The Colorado Avalanche postponed their very important playoff home games in Denver for a while.

The Nuggets and the Rockies cancelled some of their games in honor of the deceased.

In a world where sports professionals are stereotyped as money hungry antagonists, a small city proved the power of love in their hour of need.

Yes, pro sports are about making money but the reality is we, the fans wouldn't have it any other way. We love to see those huge controversial contracts. See if our favorite athletes will crack under the pressure of getting paid millions to catch fly balls, dunk, or simply block other millionaires from hitting your millionaire quarterback- who needs time to throw to millionaire receivers.

But it's nice to be able to sleep at night knowing that most of these heroes of ours do care a little sometimes.

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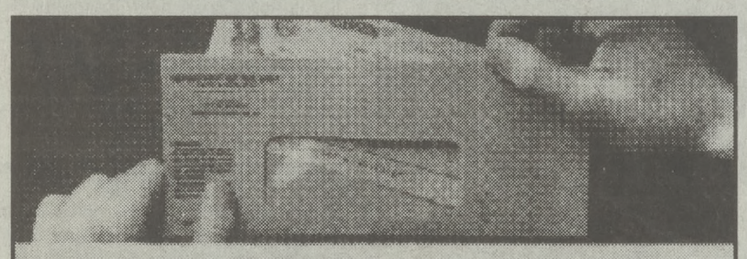

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